

## THE VALUE OF HARDSHIP

### Hebrews 12:1-11

Write God's Word for the week: Hebrews 12:2.

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

#### DAY 1: HEBREWS 12:1—CONSIDER THE COURSE OF FAITH

1. a. According to your understanding of chapter 11, who is the great assembly of witnesses who bore witness to their faith (12:1)?  
  
b. As used in this verse, "*therefore*" is a transition word that calls attention to the text that precedes and follows it. What are the thoughts the author seeks to connect?
2. Whose responsibility is it to "*lay aside*" hindrances and sin?
3. Endurance means *determination, continuing steadfastly to the end*. What do the following verses reveal about "*run[ning] with endurance the race that is set before us*"?
  - a. Hebrews 2:1  
  
b. Hebrews 10:19-23

#### DAY 2: HEBREWS 12:2-4—CONSIDER CHRIST AND BE ENCOURAGED

4. a. According to 12:3, why should we "*consider Him*"?  
  
b. To whom does the author refer when he speaks of how Christ "*endured from sinners such hostility against Himself*"? (See Matthew 27:39-44.)
5. How can the awareness of Christ's endurance sustain you in times of weariness and discouragement?
6. a. What is the key phrase found in the following verses?
  - 1) Psalm 141:8-10  
  
2) Hebrews 3:1  
b. What is the lesson from these verses?

- c. What are some specific “weights” that Christians today need to lay aside?

**DAY 3: HEBREWS 12:5-6—CONSIDER THE TIMELESS TRUTH OF LOVE**

7. a. Read Proverbs 3:1-17. To whom is the advice directed?
- b. What do you discern as the reason for the instruction?
8. Does the author desire positive or negative reaction to Hebrews 12:5-6? Explain your answer.

**DAY 4: HEBREWS 12:7-10—CONSIDER THE MEANING OF DISCIPLINE**

9. a. Why is *respect* the result of true discipline (12:9)?
- b. What does the question “*Shall we not much more be subject to the Father?*” tell us about the responsibility of God’s “*children*”?

**DAY 5: HEBREWS 12:11—CONSIDER THE RESULT OF DISCIPLINE**

10. What images does “yield ... fruit” bring to your mind (12:11)? From the truth this image conveys, what do you learn about the result of discipline?
11. a. Share an example that you have observed of a person exhibiting or practicing:
- 1) righteousness
- 2) peace
- b. Why do you think someone who has been “trained by” discipline will exhibit these qualities?

**DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS**

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**APPLY** what you have learned. Jesus clearly warned, “*In this world you will have tribulation*” (John 16:33). How do you respond to hardship? Are you willing to trust in God’s love and goodness, even in trials? If you submit as a child to God’s discipline, hardship becomes the seed for a harvest of righteousness and peace. Substituting your name for Israel, read Psalm 131:2-3: “*I have calmed and quieted my soul ... like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.*”